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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,110	07/29/2003	Rory L. Block	1842.224US1	6981
21186	7590	01/24/2007	EXAMINER	
SCHWEGMAN, LUNDBERG, WOESSNER & KLUTH, P.A. P.O. BOX 2938 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402			SAVIC, BORIS	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				3714
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		01/24/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/629,110	BLOCK ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Boris Savic	3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/29/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Rick Rowe (US 2004/0048669 A1).

Rowe discloses the operations center 62 that may be a plurality of devices, which are connected by one or more communication links 68, such as via the common server 64. The network operations center 62 may comprise a wide variety of devices and apparatus that may include one or more printing devices for printing tickets, data mass storage devices for storing messages and other data received from the gaming machines 22 or other devices of the network 40. (See page 4, paragraph 47) In a step s5, the message is transmitted from the generating device, such as the gaming machine, to a remote location or service center. In a step s6, the message is received at a remote location, such as at a particular device at the remote location. (See page 4, paragraph 57) In a step s101, a communication link is established between the sending source and the recipient. In the embodiment system illustrated in Fig. 2, this step s101 may comprise establishing a communication link from a particular gaming machine 22

over the network 40 to the operations center 62. (See page 5, paragraph 59) In a next step s102, the message is transmitted. This step s102 comprises that date being transferred from the sending source, such as the gaming machine 22, to the recipient, such as the server 64. In a step s103, the message is received. When the message is received by the recipient, the message may be stored, as in a step s104. (See page 5, paragraph 60) In a step s105, when the message is received, a response is generated and transmitted back. For example, in the system illustrated in Fig. 2, the server 64 generates a response and sends it back to the gaming machine 22 indicating that the message was received. (See page 5, paragraph 61)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over William R. Wells (US 2002/0115487 A1) in view of Robert A. Thibault et al. (US 6,061,274 A) in further view of Rick Rowe et al. (US 2003/0013531 A1).

Regarding part of claims 1 and 8 where the applicant talks about a central server in communication with the gaming terminal, the central server having a plurality of application queues and a routing queue, Wells teaches re-routing information over the appropriate portion of the link, as said in the abstract, is the same as receiving a primary event message in a routing queue. A primary event message is the information that is

being sent back and forth. In general, the present invention comprises a communications network for a plurality of gaming devices, the network providing high-speed and reliable data transfer. The network 20 includes a gaming gateway or host 24 and one or more gaming devices 22. While the term gaming gateway is used herein to refer to a particular portion or component of the invention, it will be appreciated that this component may have a variety of other names, such as host, server or the like. The gaming gateway 24, which may also be referred to as a host or central server, it generally comprises a communication interface, arranged to send and receive information. The gaming gateway 24 comprises a transceiver, i.e., a data receiver and a data transmitter. The gaming gateway 24 includes a communication link 41 over which data may be transferred to and from other systems, networks and devices. (See page 3, paragraphs: 32, 33, and 36) Wells does not teach detailed description of message transfer.

Regarding the rest of claims 1 and 8 and claims 2-7, Thibault teaches message interface 150 includes a message memory 250, which in the applicant case is the association data structure, a message controller 252, and SSA transmit/receive circuit 254, which is the processing, receiving and transmitting of the messages as said by the applicant, and an oscillator 256. (See col. 5, lines 5-10) Message interface 150 operates generally as follows. For transmission of messages, one of the processors 120 or 122 (FIG. 2) writes an outgoing message to message memory 250. The transmit/receive circuit 254 reads the outgoing message from the message memory 250, converts the message to serial format and transmits the message on one of the

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ports 170 and 172. When the message interface 150 receives a message, the message is examined to determine if it is addressed to that director or to a different director. When the message is addressed to another director, the message is transmitted through the other port to the next director in the closed-loop configuration. When the message is addressed to that director, the message is written to the message memory 250, and the appropriate processor is interrupted. The processor then reads the message from message memory 250. (See col. 5, lines 27-43) In col. 5, lines 27-43, it says when the message is addressed to that director, the message is written to the message memory 250, and the appropriate processor is interrupted. This means that the message is addressed to that application and the message is written to the data structure and it is distributed from there.

Rowe teaches the gaming machine 20 may be instructed to print a receipt from a remote location. For example, a gaming representative may send a diagnosis signal to the gaming machine 20 via a network link. (See page 5, paragraph 52) In one embodiment, a receipt reader is located at each redemption point. For example, a receipt redemption station 50 may be located at each restaurant, ticket office, or other prize redemption location. (See page 6, paragraph 64) In one embodiment, a casino patron may be issued such a receipt 60 when they park their car at a parking lot or structure associated with the casino. Receipt information may be generated at the payment host 45 or another location and then transmitted to the parking garage ticket-issuing device 80 for printing. (See page 6, paragraph 66) Also, for example, instead of utilizing a first receipt and then issuing a second receipt, the first receipt may simply be

validated and then utilized at the second location. For example, information regarding the first receipt may be updated at the host, such that when the first receipt is presented at the second location, the host indicates that the first receipt is valid for free or reduced cost goods or services. (See page 6, paragraph 72)

Looking at paragraph 66, it can be seen that the receipt 60 or event message has been transmitted to the parking garage ticket-issuing device 80, which is basically the application. Applicant talks about how primary event message has been transmitted and then the secondary event message has been transmitted. That is the same thing as this receipt procedure. A plurality of these receipts or messages have been generated and then transmitted by the payment host 45 or another location and received at the parking garage ticket-issuing device 80 for printing.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use this messaging system by Rowe and Thibault with a communications network for a plurality of gaming devices. Reason for that is because the messages or information using this message transfer can be received in a routing queue of the central server that has been described above by Wells.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Boris Savic whose telephone number is (571) 272-2849. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 6:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Ronald Jones
Primary Examiner
11/8/07